

The Writing Spot Program Guide

Great Source Education Group, a division of Houghton Mifflin Company

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ISBN - 669493295

Edition - 2nd

Grade Level P1 - Kindergarten

Readability Level

Course / Content Language Arts
Writing

List Price: 153.33

Wholesale Price 115

The features of each book or program were developed by the publisher and do not reflect the opinion of the Kentucky State Review Team Kentucky State Textbook Commission or the Kentucky Department of Education.

Content The Writing Spot Program is a writing-based language arts program that helps teachers introduce important writing and language skills to beginning writers.

The Writing Spot Program is based on the following guiding principles:

- ¶ Students need opportunities to write for a wide variety of audiences and purposes.
- ¶ Students benefit greatly from daily writing.
- ¶ Students need real audiences for their writing.
- ¶ Students need positive models for their writing.
- ¶ Writing is a process of exploration and discovery.
- ¶ Students need to be immersed in language.
- ¶ Students need to learn about the craft of writing.
- ¶ Writing is an important tool for learning in all subjects.

Student Experiences The Writing Spot Program provides kindergartners with developmentally appropriate practice in language and writing skills. Instruction is carefully sequenced and scaffolded from grade to grade. In addition, the program allows for individualized instruction when appropriate. Planning notes suggest classroom applications for large group, small group, and individual instruction. Minilessons offer opportunities for extending lessons or for helping students when they need additional guidance.

Assessment

Organization Units in the Writing Spot Program focus on four key areas:

- ¶ The Process of Writing - These units provide practice for all the skills students need to become good writers-from the steps in the writing process to writing conferences, from guidelines for writing paragraphs to guidelines for writing sentences.
- ¶ The Forms of Writing - Forms of Writing units give students a wide range of writing experiences including personal writing (all-about-me stories, friendly notes), subject writing (making counting books, writing directions), creative writing (add-on stories, shape poems), and research writing (picture dictionaries, reports). The forms of writing in The Writing Spot Program help students become confident writers as they progress from forms of writing that come largely from their own experiences to forms that require invention, reflection, research, and analysis.
- ¶ Thematic Units - The Thematic Units explore a wide range of topics from feelings and

friendship to weather and colors.

Word Study / Phonics - The Word Study / Phonics section provides activities related to phonemic awareness. This section includes activities that relate to recognition of alphabet letters and sounds and the creation of new words.

Resource Materials The Writing Spot Program components:

The Big Book introduces students to the idea of writing as communication and helps teachers create a writing environment in their classrooms. It also serves as the starting point for many Program Guide activities.

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Available Ancillary Materials	0669493260 Big Book	List Price: \$126.67
	Wholesale Price: \$95.00	
	0669493287 Buddy Book	List Price: \$6.60
	Wholesale Price: \$4.95	
	0669530042 Little	

Research Data and Evidence of Effectiveness

Disclaimer: the research data and evidence of effectiveness was provided by the publisher and does not reflect the opinion of the State Review Team, the State Textbook Commission, or the Kentucky Department of Education.

Research Available YES - provide information below
Please see PDF file "Write Source RB 1204" sent as an email attachment and as a hard copy with bid packet.

Overall Strength and/or Weaknesses

Disclaimer: Comments on the strengths and/or weaknesses of each book, material or program were written by members of the State Textbook/Instructional Materials Review Team and reflect their opinions. They do not reflect the opinions of the State Textbook Commission nor the Kentucky Department of Education. In addition, the State Textbook/Instructional Materials Review Team completed each evaluation form during summer of 2005. In order to maintain the integrity of the review team's comments, editing was limited to spelling and punctuation.

Recommendations: Great Source Writing/language program is recommended as a basal text for writing instruction.

Summary Form

I.	Technology Component Summary	0.00
II.	Reading Content Summary Student resource book and TG contain skills and strategies for students to use to improve their reading skills. Each grade level contains an Almanac for student use and teacher's guide contains lessons appropriate for grade level.	2
III.	Writing Content Summary The Write Source is a comprehensive writing program. A section is dedicated to the process of writing and is developmentally appropriate for each grade level. The materials spiral throughout the program.	2.00
IV.	Grammar and Spelling Content Summary Models are included as they are taught and spiral throughout the series. Strategies are evident as the students progress through the year.	2.00
V.	Listening /Speaking / Observing Content Summary	1.75

- A special section entitled Viewing, speaking and listening skills.
Many opportunities are given for students to practice these skills.
- | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| VI. | Inquiry Content Summary
Models of various research tools are included in the text along with specific strategies for gathering pertinent information and presentation skills.
Documentation of sources is not included in the series. | 2.00 |
| VII. | Technology Content Summary
The materials include pages on instructing the students on the correct usage of email and internet. A specific section title "Finding Information" is incorporated in the Write On Track Handbook for Young Writers, Thinkers, and Learners. | |
| VIII. | Audience: Teacher Materials Content Summary
A section is included in the Teacher's Guide that contains a Bibliography of tools to use with students and teacher resources. | 2.00 |
| IX. | Audience: Student Materials Content Summary
The student resource book is student friendly and inviting. The text is informative and well organized. | 1.75 |
| X. | Format Content Summary
Student books are accommodating and size appropriate for students. Includes big books for K-1 and student hand books for K-3. All texts are written in format appropriate for given grade level. | 2.00 |
| XI. | Ancillary Materials Content Summary
Student book and Teacher's guide make connections to real life writing , references available, and teaches how to use technology. | 2.00 |

READING CONTENT

A chapter is included in the K-2 teacher's and student's edition for word study, phonics, and reading skills. In Level 3 there is vocabulary and spelling skills included in the teacher's and student's materials.
Teacher's guide and student's books include reading strategy skills listed above.
Each grade level contains an Almanac for student use and teacher's guide contains lessons appropriate for grade level.
Student resource book and TG contain skills and strategies for students to use to improve their reading skills.
The layout of the series allows for flexible grouping.
The materials contain assessments and the daily assignments can be utilized as an on-going assesement. Rubrics are included for the various types of writing.
These materials were reviewed as a K-3 set.

WRITING CONTENT

The Write Source is a comprehensive writing program.
A section is dedicated to the process of writing and is developmentally appropriate for each grade level. The materials spiral throughout the program.
Mini lessons are incorporated to aid children in their development as a proficient writer.

GRAMMAR AND SPELLING

This writing text DOES INCLUDE practice activities with each skill taught.
Mini lessons cover strategies and skills needed for proficiency.
A chapter is dedicated to teaching the writing process and is referred throughout the series.
Models are included as they are taught and spiral throughout the series. Strategies are evident as the students progress through the year.
The layout of this series allows the teacher to use his or her discretion for differentiating instruction.
Spelling strategies are included in the Almanac.
A Student dictionary and almanac are included in the back of the student editions.
These materials were reviewed as a K-3 set.

LISTENING / SPEAKING / OBSERVING

A special section entitled Viewing, speaking and listening skills.
Many opportunities are given for students to practice these skills.
A section is dedicated to teaching these skills and strategies.
Many opportunities are given for students to practice these skills.
These materials were reviewed as a K-3 set.

INQUIRY

The Student Almanac includes many strategies and concepts needed to address these skills.
Models of various research tools are included in the text along with specific strategies for gathering pertinent information and presentation skills.
These materials were reviewed as a K-3 set.

TECHNOLOGY CONTENT

A section is dedicated to instructing the students on how to use the computer and internet in their writing.
The materials include pages on instructing the students on the correct usage of email and internet.
These materials were reviewed as a K-3 set.

AUDIENCE: TEACHER MATERIALS

The program guide contains effective writing and learning activities that are to be used with the student handbooks.
At the core of the program guide are the teaching units for each of "forms of writing chapters" in the handbook.
Assessments and their rubrics are found in a special section entitled Assessment {program guide}.
A section dedicated to viewing, speaking, and listening skills instructs the students on how to be a good listener, perform, giving short talks, and interviews, etc.
A section is included in the Teacher's Guide that contains a Bibliography of tools to use with students and teacher resources.
Lesson plans and page numbers are coordinated for each unit.
These materials were reviewed as a K-3 series.

AUDIENCE: STUDENT MATERIALS

Model for handwriting is evident in the student almanac.
These materials were reviewed as a K-3 set.

FORMAT

Graphic organizers and student models are provided for student learning.
Student book includes varied and diverse illustrations.
Student books are accommodating and size appropriate for students. Includes big books for K-1 and student handbooks for K-3. All texts are written in format appropriate for given grade level.

ANCILLARY MATERIALS

Student book and Teacher's guide make connections to real life writing, references available, and teaches how to use technology
These materials were reviewed as a K-3 set.